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WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 5, NO. 12 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | APRIL 1995 ■ FREE

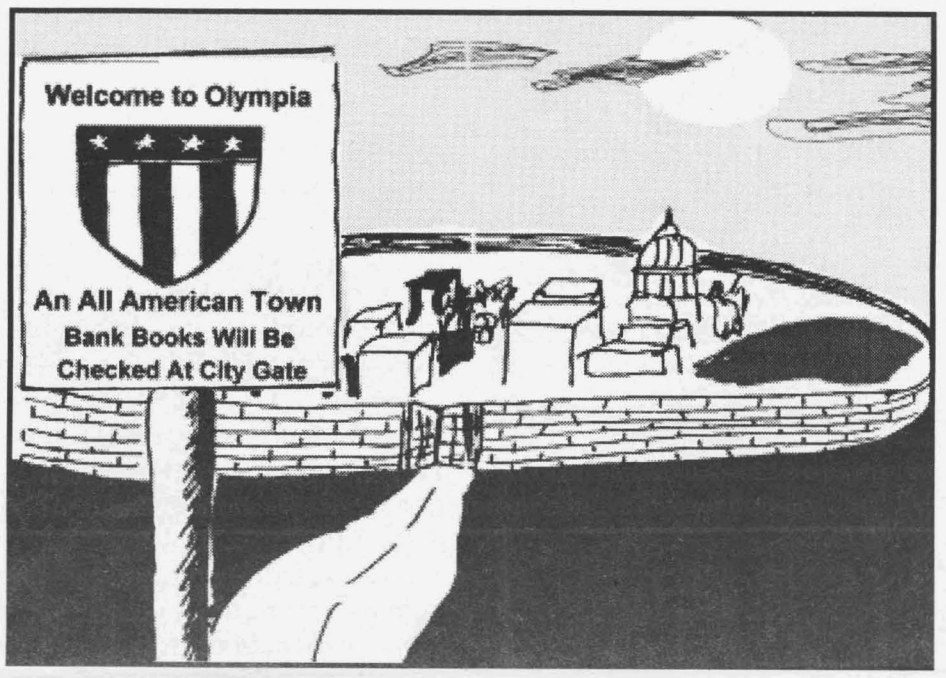
"Whenever the dollar is held supreme and capitalistic interests dominate, a higher value will always be placed upon property rights than upon human rights." Dick Gregory

Greg Hohnholt

Homeless Smear Campaign Targets Fleetwood

Newman, Illing, and "Downtown Merchants" get ugly; LIHI's Community Forum addresses local questions and concerns.

The Fleetwood building permanent housing project, to be developed by the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) of Seattle for homeless single men and women, is under attack from at least two organized forces. The first and largest is the Downtown Merchants, which includes a coalition of 10-15 local merchants and an attorney named Shawn Newman, and the second is an organization calling itself the "Friends of Sylvester Park," which is being run by a local businessman Joe Illing. Both groups are presently attempting to garner support through flyers, petitions, and, in Newman's case, radio call-in shows. Also, both groups chose not to air their concerns at LIHI's Community Forum held on March 16th at the Olympia Timberland Library, although several downtown business persons did attend and ask questions.



The Downtown Merchants that Newman has coordinated are an offshoot of the Olympia Downtown Association, but includes several other businesses not associated with that group. Newman himself is making several erroneous charges in a petition he is circulating in strategic areas like the Ramada Inn lobby on Capitol Way. These include that the Fleetwood will be a "shelter" when it will be, in reality, permanent housing, and that 73% of the Fleetwood residents will come from outside Thurston County, when, in fact, LIHI plans to work closely with local service providers and a Community Advisory Committee to ensure that local homeless individuals are served.

The Downtown Merchants have a long history of contentiousness toward low income people in general, and have done little to contribute to a positive solution to their concerns about the homeless individuals in downtown Olympia.

Newman's battle strategy

Most of these errors and half-truths in Newman's petition preface can be attributed to the fact that Newman apparently derived all of his information from scrutinizing LIHI's grant proposal without even bothering to corroborate his inferences with anyone from LIHI. This became obvious to me when I attended what was, presumably, a battle strategy meeting at an office adjacent to the Urban Onion on March 1st (a meeting, oddly enough, that Kelly Turk of Kelly's Auto Appearence told a friend of mine was open to the public). Mr. Newman asked me to leave, but before I did, it was easy for me to see from the presentation materials that Newman had been

(Continued on page 8)

Rally to stop the Republican Ripoffs! Tear Up the Contract!
We Demand: Jobs, Homes, Health Care, Justice
...Not Corporate Welfare and More Breaks for the Rich!

Newt Gingrich and the Republican Party are pushing their mean vision of the future. Through their "Contract With American" and the clone "Republican Contract With Washington State," the right wing wants to give tax breaks to the rich, lock up our youth in jail, endanger social security, cut school lunches, education and child care, savage health care funding, blame welfare mothers, undermine health and safety laws, legalize sham "company" unions and slash workplace & civil rights.

Rally & March on Linda Smith's Office Saturday, April 8 10 am

719 Sleater-Kinney Rd. SE, Lacey Meet in front of Petsmart Store

Join us as we affirm our commitment to a society based on justice, equality and the dignity of all

Join us in Olympia for a Regional Protest Against the Right-Wing Agenda and its assault on workers, the impoverished, women, people of color, immigrants, our children and youth, our elders, the environment, gay, lesbian, and bisexual peoples, the disabled, and others marginalized by a society that places profit over human needs.

Saturday, April 15, 1995 @ noon

We will gather for a an initial Rally at Sylvester Park

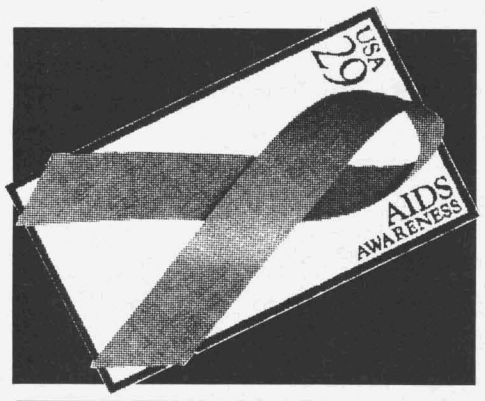
(located between 7th & Legion on Capital Way)

We will then proceed through the downtown area making a call for justice to businesses whose owners have been involved in anti-union activity and have taken discriminatory action against local youth and homeless community members. We will then

March to the capital For a 1:45 P.M. Rally

See Page 15 For More Info

Letters



Contol Your Dog: Avoid Doggie Do-do

I agree with many points Ms. Dunsmore made, and I disagreed with one very major point.

The major point I disagree with is letting her dog run loose. Sweetpea may be the sweetest, most wonderful dog in the world (well, she'd come in second next to my two, of course). The fact is, this is a dangerous world, and there are many sick individuals out there who wouldn't care if they hurt her. I know that people purposely swerve their cars to hit animals trotting happily across the street. I know that there are young adults who get sick pleasure from torturing animals. I know there are careless people who let their antifreeze pour onto the ground (which is highly toxic to animals who don't know any better than to think it is a sweet-tasting treat). I know there are people who would poison food and give it to Sweetpea just for the fun of it (or angry neighbors who would call it "revenge"). I know that people are careless with chicken bones and other such things that animals will ingest and that have the potential to cause serious harm to their tender innards.

I agree that we don't really "own" any piece of the earth. But whatever piece of property we inhabit still is our own space for as long as we live there. I have a right to my space, and I expect others to respect that space. I have a right to expect that my space is a safe place for my family, my dogs, and I to play in, to relax in, and to work in. I don't want the neighbor dogs defecating in my yard. My dogs are very clean (most dogs are, given the chance), they don't like to walk or play where they or other dogs have pooped, so we take care to clean up after them, both for them and for us.

Why is it our responsibility to also clean up after your dog? And since your dog has been running loose, what kinds of bacteria, parasites, and disease has it picked up along its way that it deposits as it defecates? The least of those is worms--there are plenty of other health hazards that can be spread via feces. One of them is parvo, which can be deadly, and some breeds are more susceptible to the parvo virus than are others. There also are parasites and disease that humans, particularly children, can pick up from dog feces.

Even if no canine companions shared my home, I have the right, to recreate in my own yard without worrying about what surprises may be in store for me. My children have a right to be safe to play in their yard without stepping, slipping, or falling on dog feces. My guests have a right to feel safe to let their small children crawl and lie upon my lawn without scooting through dog poop--or worse, as small children are wont to do, exploring this substance via their mouths.

For that matter, when I use a public space, such as a park or a sidewalk, I don't want to step in, lie down on, or fall in dog poop. If your dog is running loose and "pooping at large", then where are you to clean up after it to assure that the rest of us can run, walk, play, and picnic without stepping or falling in its feces?

I agree that elimination is a perfectly natural act and may act as fertilizer (although I question the organic part, depending on what is eaten). But why should a dog be allowed any more freedom to poop on a neighbor's lawn or in a public park than a human? I certainly wouldn't squat in the middle of a park or on my neighbor's lawn to defecate, regardless of how completely natural an act it is. Why is it less acceptable to expect you to contain your dog's dumping ground to within the bounds of its own yard?

In her article, Ms. Dunsmore said, "Yes, I get annoyed and even angry when I step in dog shit, *but I don't kill a dog.*" *So* why should the rest of us be subjected to stepping in *her* dog's feces? It sounds like a double standard to me. I don't believe the point is killing the dog, anyway, no matter what she claims the "dog catcher" said. **The point is respect for an individual's space, respect for the public space, and respect for your canine friend.**

Another point I agree with is our stewardship of this planet and all her creatures. Part of stewardship is realizing that in domesticating the animal kingdom, humans have interfered with their instincts, their natural abilities to care for and defend themselves. We have made them dependent upon us, so the responsibility for their safety and care lies squarely on our shoulders.

I believe, Ms. Dunsmore, that when you let Sweetpea run the neighborhood, you aren't respecting your neighbor's space or the public spaces we all share. I also believe that you are not taking responsibility for your stewardship of Sweetpea and are therefore not respecting her right to safety.

J. C. Rogers

WIP Schedule

WIP article submission deadline is:

Wednesday April 19

Also on that day, there will be a meeting at SPEECH (218 Fourth Ave) at 7 pm. Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, April 24 at 7pm
Downtown Timberland Lib

For advertising info call ad representative

Dave Campbell at 352-6132

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WORKS IN PROGRESS: PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507

Works In Progress

Mission Statement: This organization is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding among diverse cultural groups and providing a voice for peoples disenfranchised by the dominant culture. We encourage the presentation of material by those most affected by exclusionary and unfair practices. Our aim is to explore the meanings of injustice and democratic participation in our society and in relation to the emerging global transition.

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (Wordperfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

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Junky Cars, Farm Workers, and Delores Huerta

Josh Remis

On Sunday, March 12, seven members of the Olympia Farmworker Justice Committee, including myself, piled into two cars and drove four hours to the Sunnyside, Washington office of the United Farm Workers of America. We were on our way to attend a meeting of Union organizers, farm workers, and union supporters to mark nearly eight years since the UFW called the boycott of Chateau Ste. Michelle. Half way to Sunnyside one of the cars began puking blue-white smoke from its tailpipe and had to be abandoned by the side of the road. (Which prompted a deep thought: If ever we overturn our capitalist system for a new social order, maybe it would be a good idea to train a whole lot more mechanics, because it seems that leftists always drive cars that break down at the worst possible time.)

Once in Sunnyside we were greeted by the friendly faces of Union organizers, farmworkers and supporters. After we ate Mexican food and schmoozed for a few minutes, the meeting came to order.

About 150 of us were addressed by several farm workers who are active members of the UFW. Two such members were Renaldo Cruz and Jose Martin. They, along with several of their companeros, gave their thanks to their fellow workers for waging such a courageous struggle to achieve economic justice at Chateau Ste. Michelle. They noted many of the improvements they have seen in their working conditions because of the pressure put on the winery, such as increased job security, clean water for drinking and washing and, perhaps most importantly, the knowledge that with continued efforts they will win a fair contract with the winery. They and others also gave thanks to the boycott committees from around Washington, who for the past several years have raised public awareness about the boycott of US Tobacco Co. wines. In appreciation of the hard work they have done on the boycott, the Olympia Farm Worker Justice Committee was presented with a UFW flag signed by the board of directors of the Union.

Despite that hard work, and the amazing courage and perserverence of the workers in the face of intimidation and threats by the company, the Chateau Ste. Michelle has not yet given in. On the contrary, it has engaged in a ruthless union-busting campaign. This does not mean that the winery is winning the fight; their desperate efforts against the union are a sign of the increasing power the workers have because of their organizing. If they didn't have such power, the company would simply ignore them.

What will it take though for the workers to win their struggle for justice in the fields?

There certainly has been no lack of organizing by the farm workers themselves. As the workers who spoke on Sunday said, nearly all those who work in US Tobacco vineyards are in full support of the UFW. Through the union workers have realized that they can fight for their rights (this is no small thing in an industry which is characterized perhaps more than any other by worker abuse and exploitation), and they are stalwart in their commitment to winning due respect from the company; the fight, then, has little to do with convincing the workers to recognize the UFW as their representative. The workers *are* the union.

The challenge is to get more of *us*, those on the left and the wine buying public, to make this human rights issue more of a priority. The bottom line is that Chateau Ste. Michelle will not sign a fair contract with the workers unless they feel that it is economically unfeasible not to do so, so we must step up the intensity of the boycott. That means you reading this paper better get involved with the Olympia Farmworker Justice Committee.

Why is it so difficult to get more people involved in this fight? We can trace much of the problem to a familiar and ugly culprit (no, not CSM President Allen Shoup): **racism**. U.S. Tobacco stands accused of racism towards the Latina/o vineyard workers, and they are guilty as charged. To see evidence, we simply need to note the contract granted to the white employees, which guarantees them a minimum $14 an hour, job security, a fair system of seniority, etc., and compare that to what is offered to the farm workers. Another example of the company's paternalism is the offer they made to the Teamsters to allow them to represent the vineyard workers without worker consent.

U.S. Tobacco, however, is not the only one guilty of racism. We must admit that if the human beings who work in the fields over 70 hours a week without overtime pay, who have no guarantee that they will not be indiscriminately fired, and who cannot provide for their families with what little pay they receive, were *white*, then this struggle would likely already be over. There would be a large public outcry that human beings were working in third world conditions in 'America' ("land of the free", or so the song goes) and the Olympia Farmworker Justice Committee would not have so few people on its informational picket lines (every Friday at 5:30, call **352-2153** for information). The Teamster local at the winery who has so far shown little more than hostility towards the farm workers would get off its ass and show some solidarity. As it stands, they should be ashamed of their inaction.

They noted many of the improvements they have seen in their working conditions because of the pressure put on the winery such as increased job security clean water for drinking and washing and, perhaps most importantly the knowledge that with continued efforts they will win a fair contract with the winery

We are lucky, folks! Now is a great time to get involved: Recently obtained information on Chateau Ste. Michelle for 1994 show that wine sales are roughly 20% less than two years ago. These statistics are for the holiday season, the months when CSM typically sells most of its wine. Whether the boycott is solely responsible for the drop in sales or not, this is a good time to capitalize on the company's vulnerability to economic pressure. And last, but not least, the Olympia Farmworker Justice Committee is bringing **Dolores Huerta** to Olympia! If you don't know who she is (and what a naughty person you are if you don't), Dolores was co-founder and first vice-president of the United Farm Workers of America, and was instrumental in leading the agricultural boycotts of the 60's and 70's. She has been fighting on multiple fronts for social justice since then and at age 63 she is still going strong (in 1988 she was hospitalized after being severely beaten by cops while at a demonstration against the Bush administration). **Dolores will be speaking on May 7th, 7:00pm, on the fourth floor of the library of The Evergreen State College. Prior to her speaking engagement, there will be a fiesta with food and dance, beginning at 5:00pm at the same location. Donations will be accepted. Don't miss it!!!** For more information on Dolores Huerta or how to get more involve with the boycott of Chateau Ste. Michelle, **call 352-2153**.

Viva la Causa! ◆

Dolores Huerta Coming To Olympia

The Olympia Farm Worker's Justice Committee is honored to have Dolores Huerta of the United Farm Workers of America coming to our community.

May 12 at the Evergreen State College Library Lobby
5:30 pm fiesta and live music, 7:00 pm speech

Dolores Huerta is co-founder with Cesar Chavez and Vice President of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO.

For over thirty years Dolores has ceaselessly struggled to win social justice for farm workers who are among this country's most exploited laborers. Huerta has faced down burly company goons on tense picketlines and has been arrested nearly twenty-two times, with no convictions, for union activity.

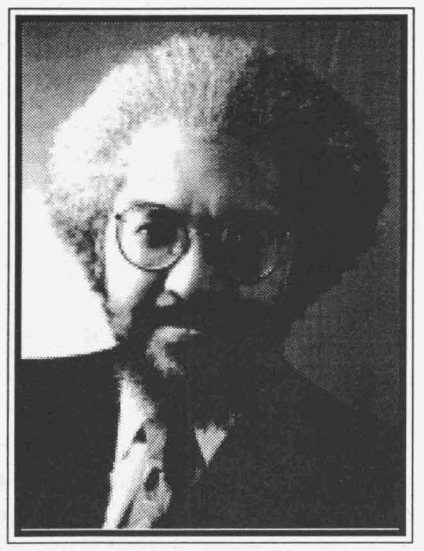
In recognition of her courage and dedication, Dolores has been awarded several national honors, including the ACLU's 1993 Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award and the National Organization for Women's 1994 Women of Courage Award. She was also inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993.

Dolores will speak about the status of the farm worker movement and the role the UFW plays in that movement. She will also talk about the recent backlash against immigrants, as reflected in the passage of California's Proposition 187.

Please contact Sheila Payne at the UFW's Olympia office at (360) 352-2153 if your group can co-sponsor this event.

Along the Color Line

Rethinking Affirmative Action



Dr. Manning Marable

Several nights ago, I stood on a street corner in midtown Manhattan, attempting to hail a taxicab late on a cold, frosty evening. I was wearing a business suit and topcoat, and carrying an oversized briefcase. Despite my outstretched arm, I watched as five Medallion cabs in a row which were "on duty" sped past. One cab even slowed down a little, apparently surveying the color of my skin, and then speeded up.

I mention this little incident to illustrate that African-Americans and many other people of color can never forget the fundamental reasons for the adoption and institutionalization of affirmative action programs: discrimination and inequality. A generation ago, the 1964 Civil Rights Act was passed to outlaw legal racial segregation in public accommodations. At that time, banks openly and routinely denied credit to blacks and Hispanics; white universities refused to admit most minority students; unions often refused to train women and minorities as apprentices; and corporations rejected well-qualified women and people of color from most positions. Even today, thirty years after the original adoption of affirmative action, programs which factor into account the real historic and contemporary patterns of discrimination rooted in gender and racial inequality, minorities remain grossly underrepresented in many white collar professions.

For example, African-Americans and Latinos represent 12.4 percent and 9.5 percent respectively of the U.S. adult population. But of all American physicians, blacks account, for barely 4.2 percent, and Latinos 5.2 percent. Among engineers, blacks represent 3.7 percent, Latinos 3.3 percent; among lawyers, blacks account for 3.3 percent, Latinos 3.1 percent; and for all university and college professors, blacks make up 5 percent, Latinos 2.9 percent.

When median annual earnings are compared by race and gender, most white males remain in a dominant position. The median earnings of Black and Hispanic males are only 74 percent and 65 percent, respectively, of those of white males. Black women and Latinos also fall behind white males, at 64 percent and 54 percent of white males median salaries. White women, who numerically have been the primary and overwhelming beneficiaries of affirmative action programs, earn roughly 70 cents per every dollar earned by white males. Especially in managerial, administrative and higher salaried positions, millions of qualified black Americans, Hispanics and women still are frequently excluded from consideration. Overall, blacks still suffer twice the rate of unemployment as whites.

It is in this context that the recent political and ideological assault on affirmative action must be understood. Americans have made significant progress to reduce institutional discrimination, yet the struggle for full representation and equality for women and people of color for jobs, incomes, and across the board has scarcely been won. Nevertheless, a deep and hostile impression exists among millions of Americans that affirmative action policies have gone "too far," and that white males have become the victims of "reverse discrimination." In 1989, the Supreme Court overturned a program in Richmond, Virginia, which set aside 30 percent of all municipal contracts favoring racial minorities. In several court cases, whites are challenging the use of different admission standards which increase black and Hispanic enrollments, and scholarships designated for minority students.

In Congress last month, the House voted overwhelmingly to cancel a tax deferment which helped companies selling television, radio and cable stations to minorities. Since 1978, this tax break helped to increase black and Hispanic ownership of broadcast outlets 600 percent. African-Americans in Congress interpreted this crucial vote as the first in a series of legislative assaults on minority set-aside and affirmative action programs. Rep. Kweisi Mfume, D-MD, declared, "The people around the country are looking at this and seeing a race debate."

But the most important attack against affirmative action nationally is being waged in California. Two conservative academics, Tom Wood and Glynn Custred, have proposed the California Civil Rights Initiative, which if passed next year would outlaw race and gender based preferences in hiring, government contracts and school admissions. *USA Today* reports that the proponents of California's anti-affirmative action initiative are now joining forces with anti-tax groups, building a vast coalition of conservative voters favoring smaller government and fewer regulations.

Although we must emphasize that affirmative action remains necessary in order to address real patterns of discrimination in employment and throughout society, it is also clear that a majority of Americans now favor the elimination of such programs and policies. The question now confronts progressives and liberals, as well as others who have favored the creation of a just society: Were do we go from here? We must move toward the development of remedies which simultaneously accomplish two objectives: first, eliminate discrimination through the creation of greater opportunities for racial minorities and women, and second, the implementation of such policies which are framed within a single standard of excellence, and cannot be challenged as "quotas." We need to begin a national dialogue around these objectives, and begin to move forward.

We must move toward the development of remedies which simultaneously accomplish two objectives: first, eliminate discrimination through the creation of greater opportunities for racial minorities and women, and second, the implementation of such policies which ar framed within a single standard of excellence, and cannot be challenged as "quotas."

•••••

The debate over affirmative action probably will define the 1996 presidential election. Already, Republican party presidential candidates, from Robert Dole to Phil Gramm, are not surprisingly on the anti-affirmative action bandwagon. Even President Clinton is privately calculating whether he should repudiate existing affirmative action programs, and endorse the California Civil Rights Initiative. Public opinion polls indicate that the vast majority of Americans don't support what they perceive to be racial and gender preference programs. A recent *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News survey indicated that two-thirds of all Americans, including one-half of those who voted for Clinton in 1992, oppose affirmative action. Republicans will try to use this issue to drive a wedge between many traditional Democratic voters like African-Americans, Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans who favor affirmative action, vs. a significant number of Jewish voters and some Asian Americans who oppose it.

Many black leaders are vigorously fighting back to defend affirmative action as it currently exists. Before affirmative action, the "system (was) naturally and artificially rigged for white males," states Connie Rice of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Certainly, we must debunk the racist myth that millions of unqualified minorities are taking jobs away from better qualified white males. The statistics on incomes and labor force percentages of racial groups clearly show that white privilege still exists. As Jesse Jackson has explained, "minorities and women are not in need of affirmative action because they cannot compete with white males. They can compete — but only if allowed the opportunity. Affirmative action merely gets them in the pool so they will have that opportunity."

But a "defense" of the current policies isn't sufficient to reverse the political avalanche which now threatens to destroy opportunities for minorities and women. We must find the courage to "rethink" affirmative action remedies, in a manner which will negate charges of "reverse discrimination" and "quotas", while at the same time rewarding hard work, effort and excellence across the board.

For example, Professor Darryl Scott of Columbia University has suggested an alternative to race-based, minority scholarships in public universities. Let us suppose that the upper 10 percent of the graduating seniors of all high schools in a state would be automatically admitted to that state's prestigious university system. The 10 percent guideline for admission would be fairly applied to all high schools, regardless of their respective median family income levels, races or averages on standardized tests. Such a criteria would reward all students for hard work and effort, and would at the same time undoubtedly increase black college enrollment over current levels. For well-to-do white parents at suburban, elite high schools, who might complain that their daughter or son in the thirtieth percentile of her/his class is "better" academically than the valedictorian of an inner-city public school, we should reply: in a democracy, the greatest public welfare is served by rewarding hard work and achievement in a fair manner, wherever they are found. If the best students at inner-city high schools aren't "equal" in certain skills levels to the best students in the affluent suburbs, the fault is not theirs. It is the failure to invest in educational excellence in our urban public schools. A strategy which provides access to public education to all members of society *by a single standard* is both fair and justified.

Another approach would be to establish college and university

(Continued next page)

(Affirmative contined)

scholarships which would be based on two essential criteria: recipients must be "first generation college students", that is, no one in their immediate household is a college graduate; and second, the family income would have to be under $35,000. By these two criteria, one could reward scholarship disproportionately to Hispanics, blacks and low income people without using race-based criteria.

We can dismantle the structure of white elitism and privilege also by outlawing certain benefits which affluent whites have long taken for granted. For instance, we could move to terminate the system of "legacies" at colleges and universities. "Legacies" are set-asides which permit the children or descendants of alumni into a college. Often the legacies reward the children of families which have histories of generous financial contributions to their alma maters. At Harvard College several years ago, about 44 percent of the "legacies" were admitted into the school, compared to only 10 percent of the general undergraduate applicants.

Rethinking affirmative action must also mean fighting for increased legal penalties and fines for all businesses found guilty of policies and practices which are discriminatory to minorities and women. We can defeat the drive of white conservatism to destroy the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement, but only if we pursue more innovative and creative strategies for equality. We must defend our right to challenge all forms of racism and discrimination, but we must also initiate new approaches which can reverse the tide and move a majority of Americans behind our struggle.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University, New York City. "Along the Color Line" appears in over 275 newspapers and is featured by 80 radio stations internationally. ◆

Can Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam deliver African Americans from the evils of racism?

Emily Woo Yamasaki

Minister Louis Farrakhan is planning to mobilize one million Black men to march on Washington D.C. That may sound great, but what about Black women? What about Black lesbians and gays? And what will Farrakhan's message be? Farrakhan is providing desperately needed leadership to African Americans — but what kind?

As a lesbian of color fighting the system and looking for allies, these questions hit home for me.

Hard-pressed community seeks direction. Like today's other movements, the Black movement is experiencing a crisis of leadership. It never bounced back from the government destruction of radical groups and individuals like the Black Panther Party and Malcolm X in the 1960s.

Into this vacuum steps Farrakhan. Touring Black universities and high schools, youth centers, and inner-city meeting places, he portrays the Nation of Islam (NOI) as the solution to the harshly decaying conditions for Blacks and spreads his gospel of cultural nationalism — the politics of race superiority and separatism.

His audiences, like most African Americans, know the system isn't working. They know Democrats and Republicans have sold Blacks down the same river, and they are searching for alternatives. Farrakhan appeals to them by promoting Black unity and a militant sense of racial and cultural pride.

But because he misidentifies Blacks' real enemy and slanders those who should be allies, Farrakhan's politics go beyond bankrupt — they're suicidal for the movement he says he wants to build.

Capitalism off the hook. Farrakhan refuses to say that it is *capitalism* that is responsible for racist injustice, going all the way back to the days of slavery and continuing right up to the poverty, unemployment, homelessness, violence and crime that disproportionately affect Blacks today. While NOI security forces pose as crime-busters by patrolling inner-city housing projects, Farrakhan fails to provide an honest analysis of why the mayhem exists.

Instead, Farrakhan agitates about Blacks pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps and building Black businesses. The problem with this is that racism is *central* to the profit system: capitalism *created* racism to justify lower wages and inferior living standards for people of color and excuse their use as a super-exploited pool of reserve labor.

Farrakhan doesn't just naively miss the point. Instead of demonstrating revolutionary integrationist leadership that joins Blacks with other oppressed groups, he encourages the isolation of Blacks from other people of color and potential co-activists. His NOI creates false devils, pointing the finger not only at the race of whites, but at uppity women and "loose" women on welfare, immigrants, gays, and even the Black working class, for whom the Nation shows disdain. NOI opposes abortion, denounces homosexuality as an abomination against God, and excludes women from leadership positions.

The problem... is that racism is* central *to the profit system: capitalism* created *racism to justify lower wages and inferior living standards for people of color and excuse their use as a super-exploited pool of reserve labor

But the Nation's primary scapegoat is Jews. Farrakhan never condemned the infamous, viciously anti-Semitic tirade of his former aide, Khalid Abdul Muhammad. In fact, the Minister upheld the essence of Muhammad's comments as "truths."

Where have we heard all this before? Though it opportunistically bases itself on the desperation of society's most downtrodden members, the NOI platform is tailor-made to advance the chilling agenda of the contemporary Nazis. The divisive dogma of cultural nationalism plays right into the hands of white supremacists, as it advocates the same Ideal — capitalism with segregation — from the opposite direction.

Guess who's rising to leadership. Historically, Black cultural nationalism is the program of despair. It flourishes when crisis is profound, other radical leadership is absent, and the movement is at an ebb.

This helps explain why Farrakhan excludes important, dynamic figures like the Panthers and Malcolm X from his teachings. These Black militants posed *real* challenges to the ruling class. That is why they were killed off, while the Nation — which at the very least abetted Malcolm's murder by fanning the flames against him — remained untouched by the government's bloody hands.

Despite their visibility today, cultural nationalists are still a minority. And they will not hold on to their influence in the Black community forever. As alternatives arise, NOI influence will wane.

Sprouts of that alternative leadership are already visible, especially in the labor movement. African American transit and hotel workers providing the heart and muscle of recent union struggles in New York City are the wave of the future.

Also in the forefront are Black women, the backbone of the African American community for centuries. I have been especially inspired by the Black feminists who have boldly spoken out against the sexism and treachery of cultural nationalism.

Like they have been in the past, Black women and Black lesbians and gays will continue to be the crucial links among the civil rights, feminist, sexual identity, and labor movements. The very constituencies whom Farrakhan ostracizes are the ones who can truly address the needs of the vast majority of Blacks.

The time for sermonizing is over, Minister Farrakhan. Cultural nationalism will have to step down from the pulpit and be replaced by a revolutionary, bridge-building, feminist Black leadership — the only kind capable of helping Blacks and all the rest of us out of the dead end called capitalism.

Emily is an Asian American radical activist, actor, office worker, member of Radical Women, and regular columnist for the Freedom Socialist, a quarterly newspaper with an international circulation. ◆

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The Last Shall Be First: Black Workers, Civil Rights And The Birmingham Spring of 1934

Paul Ortiz

"The alleged docility of Southern labor is not in evidence around Birmingham these days..."

-*Pittsburgh Courier*, May 19, 1934

In the Spring of 1934, working-class African Americans in Birmingham, Alabama organized and took part in a remarkable array of militant labor and civil rights struggles. Black workers in hospitals, laundries, cafeterias, coal mines, ore mines, and domestic service waged strikes, participated in unemployed movements, and petitioned the federal government for relief from the Great Depression. In the fall of 1933, African Americans organized the Forgotten Workers Of America (FWA). The FWA wanted to push Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal in more radical directions. "Our name comes from President Roosevelt's phrase, 'the forgotten man,'" James 'Doc' Mason, an FWA leader wryly noted. "There are four types of workers the National Recovery Administration forgot," Mason continued. "They are the domestic, agricultural, educational and governmental employees." By the Spring of 1934, the FWA had organized six locals in Birmingham. Mason stated that "What we are trying to do is to obtain for these workers recognition, better working conditions, and higher wages."

Viewed from afar, 1934 did not seem to be a promising year for working-class African Americans to attempt to launch a social movement of any kind in the Deep South. The country was suffering the fifth year of the Great Depression and *official* unemployment rates hovered around 25 percent. Southern industrialists freely deployed armies of company police and spies in order to keep their workers disenfranchised and oppressed. W.C. Martin, president of the Vulcan Rivet Corporation in Birmingham boasted that he could "operate [the company] without a union if he had to hire gunmen to stand at the gate to shoot people who interfered." The state pitched in as well. In 1934 "Under Alabama law, peaceful picketing designed to encourage workers to withdraw from work was illegal."

The Southern media parroted the bosses's dogma on issues like wages and race. The Cordele, Georgia *Dispatch* questioned "the wisdom in so suddenly elevating the porter and other colored employees to an equality with the whites on a salary basis lest it create false ideas of social equality all the way round that they have never thought of before. The intelligent, educated negroes [sic] will not be guilty of any such thoughts..."

Perhaps not. But, as the Birmingham Spring unfolded, it became painfully clear to white elites that thousands of *working-class* African Americans *were* guilty of thinking *and* acting decisively against poor working conditions and racism.

Nearly 2,000 laundry workers launched the first major blow on February 12 and the *Birmingham World*, an African American daily reported that "The majority of the laundry strikers are Negroes..." Commercial "Laundry work was hot and damp" noted Jacqueline Jones "and most plants were ill-equipped to provide artificial ventilation or sanitary and rest facilities." Black workers were the lowest paid in Birmingham's laundries and one of their demands was a more equitable wage structure including a guaranteed minimum wage for African American laundresses. Regional union leaders tried to ensure an orderly strike, but apparently the rank-and-file, the majority of whom were African-American women, would have none of it. The *Daily World* observed that "They [the union] are urging no picketing. But many of the workers are picketing anyway." Laundry bosses grudgingly admitted that this militance was the key to the workers' victory. Percy Brower, "manager of the Domestic laundry, [stated that] he had not attempted to operate his plant with labor other than the strikers because recent act[s] of 'violence and terrorism' made other workers afraid to enter the plants."

Black workers' battles for better working conditions in 1934 went hand in hand with their critique of racial injustice. Consider the grievances articulated during the Brittling Cafeteria strike waged in May by "110 negro waiters, waitresses, and bus boys..." These workers struck all three company cafeterias in May, 1934 after they asserted that a number of their co-workers had been fired unfairly.

The workers provided the *Birmingham World* with a list of the fired: "James Bowes, asked for more pay; Evelyn Patterson, a man bumped into her forcing her to drop a tray; Mattie Gray, *heard talking to a white woman*; Margaret Warren, accused of spilling tea on a patron's dress..." According to the workers, "They were fined $1.00 for any violation of rules which included speaking to each other or for any minor error...They were not allowed to receive tips from the patrons and were subject to being fired if they did receive any tips...Even when a worker laughed he was fined $1.00" This worker testimony exposes Brittling Cafeterias as a microcosm of American apartheid and worker oppression.

mingham-area miners went out on strike. Again, African-American workers led the way. These miners were forced to confront brutal company police by arming themselves and protecting their picket lines from scabs and National Guard terrorism. The *Birmingham News* reported that "At Docena [mine] where every member of the [striking] group was a Negro with no white man in charge on the ground, [the workers] stated outright that they had the weapons to strike down anyone that interfered with them or attempted to operate the mine...At the Wylam mine the strikers said they had the sticks 'to walk with because their backs hurt.'"

What visions inspired African-American miners to confront their employers in such a bold manner?

...as the Birmingham Spring unfolded, it became painfully clear to white elites that thousands of* working-class *African Americans* were *guilty of thinking* and *acting decisively against poor working conditions and racism.

The effort by management to ring the workplace dry of any meaningful human contact as well as to deny Black workers' prerogatives that white cafeteria workers enjoyed (like tips!) helped precipitate the strike.

Yet, this wasn't a "reactive" strike. The Brittling Cafeteria workers, like their counterparts in the commercial laundries (not to mention the 21,000 Birmingham miners then on strike) were also seizing the possibilities inherent in the Roosevelt Administration's efforts to "prime" the depressed economy in Birmingham and elsewhere by introducing guaranteed minimum wage scales in selected industries in 1934. Roosevelt's advisors reasoned that the economy was suffering from a crisis of under consumption that could only be solved by stabilizing wages in order to create higher consumer demand. Better-paid workers would be able to purchase more goods and this would stimulate investment. It is difficult for us in an era of Republicrat supply-side economics to imagine this. Yet, in 1934, working-class African Americans as well as white workers attempted to use these new federal policies as an opening wedge to bargain for higher wages and better working conditions.

Shortly after witnessing the example provided by their female *companeras* in the commercial laundries, over twenty-thousand Birmingham-area miners went out on strike. Leon Alexander, a 24-year-old miner who toiled at the Sloss-Sheffield Lewisburg mine personified a new generation of African American militancy. Alexander, on a day-to-day basis, sabotaged white employers' efforts to dehumanize Black miners through segregation. "Ironically," Alexander remembered,

> they had hydrants; it wasn't no fountains-these were water hydrants where we got our water, fill it by the cans and buckets...and we went in and out of the mines. They had a sign here that said white and the sign [over there] that said colored...you couldn't get the water out of even the same hydrant! The company always suspected I done [it] but they never could prove I done it. I took the handle of the key off of the hydrant so that they couldn't turn the hydrant on and then they had to catch the water at the hydrant that was marked white.

Leon Alexander proved to be an astute union organizer. He and other African-American miners at Lewisburg worked overtime to convince their white brothers that the coal operators were using white working-class racism to keep the work force divided and powerless. Alexander noted that Walter Jones, another United Mine Workers' organizer told whites that "When the company goes to kicking ass they don't look to see whether the ass is black or white they just start to kicking ass and if it happens to be a white one it got kicked just like the black one." Still, Black miners had to take the initiative at Lewisburg. "After the whites saw that all the

(Continued next page)

(Birmingham continued)

blacks [laughter] were not going to work," Alexander recalled, "they were ashamed to go themselves...they stayed out to. Officially, or unofficially we was on strike."

All told, over 50,000 Birmingham-area workers went out on strike or participated in unemployed protests during that historic Birmingham Spring. In many if not most instances, working-class African Americans provided the leadership in these insurgencies. In doing so, they helped lay the foundation for later civil rights struggles in Birmingham.

Today, when the political gains made by African Americans and other working people are under draconian assault, we must remember the struggles waged during Leon Alexander's generation because they can inform today's social justice crusades. The greatest lesson is that successful social movements cannot be built from above-or even from the middle; rather, they must be built from the base of the most oppressed in society. Conspicuously absent from the Birmingham struggles were middle-class "role models" because they remained respectably on the sidelines.

African American workers had several advantages in 1934. First, they could draw upon an oppositional culture that rejected white supremacy and laissez-faire capitalism. (Needless to say, this culture was severely misread by contemporary observers as being dysfunctional or in today's parlance "underclass.") Second, Black workers sought to negotiate greater gains through Roosevelt's New Deal economic policies. These policies, in their initial forms were themselves products of the popular electoral insurgency against Herbert Hoover in 1932.

Finally, the militant activism of working-class African Americans during the Birmingham Spring provides valuable lessons for today's civil rights, labor, and social justice organizations. These groups will begin to transform society if and when they adopt policies and programs that respond to the needs of the unemployed, the so-called "underclass" and the most oppressed segments of American society.

Paul Ortiz is stranded at Duke University, but he is excited to hear that Dolores Huerta, heroic farm worker leader and feminist is coming to Olympia. He urges individuals and organizations to pitch in and help with the costs and logistics of Huerta's visit. And of course: Boycott Chateau Ste. Michelle wines until they sign a union contract!

This article comes from the project Paul is working on, called "Behind the Veil: Documenting African-American Life in the Jim Crow South," which is a large-scale effort to recover the documentary base for understanding the experience of Jim Crow before this invaluable opportunity is lost. Using oral history, documentary photography, and film, the plan is to make this era visible to all Americans and to begin filling the gaps in the understanding of this critical period.

The goals of the project include a book, teaching materials and collection and exhibition of materials related to African-American life during segregation.

For more info: Center for Documentary Studies (Duke University) Box 90802 Durham, NC 27708-0802 (919) 660-3651 ◆

The Moon Drinks Dusty Bottled Wine

Patricia Imani

So they're talking about you on the news again Women.
Women who live way down in poverty.
Welfare Women.
They say you're of the underclass, categorized by social scientists right up there with rapists.
Fuck them. What do they know!
The criminal criminalizes that which he needs, twisting lies into truth, truth into lies,
no wonder there is a hell.
Welfare Women,
I know you.
I Love you.
Poverty rips at your spirit like some thing evil, illusive.
Your Communities fragmented, from Earth to Soul.
Struggle sewn into the seems
of your life
like a quilt
ragged and living,
carrying Memories of your Grandmothers struggles,
her Mothers struggles, and on
the Wind **will** endure.

Welfare Women,
I know you.
I Love you.
You feed your Child from your Body
and you feed the Neighborhood
on Beets
and Bread that came your way for Free.

"But Woman, don't you see that progress so simple is of no value,
the Relationship you conspire between your Body, your Home, and your Community
is of no value and besides
'Nothing is Sacred' anymore."

They say that when we consider **all** single Women with young Children living in the u.s.,
including the rich ones and the poor ones,
59% are living in poverty.
That's no surprise to Women.
We know We've been screwed often.
That's why We Laugh in the Summer time.
Sweet revenge.
We Laugh so hard
our Tears sometimes water the Garden
without Rains.

If you're 'on welfare' you're living like 46% **below** the "standard of need".
That means you're poor.
But you knew that.
Dirt poor.
Bead poor.
Flour poor.
Tearing up diapers to Bleed on poor.
Welfare Women,
I know you.
I Love you.

The welfare reform proposals are not designed to get Women out of poverty,
but to force them
into the free
and low wage
labor market.
We have so many Women *living* in poverty
because that's the design of the system.
Women marginalised
disempowered
without a dollar
or a sword.
It's too bad that Women **can't** kill with that look.
You know , that look that comes from a Woman
who knows
She's been wronged for
a long long long long fucking time,
when She's god damned tired of thinking
tomorrow's going to be the same.

No dollar,
no sword,
oh, but we can sing **that song**.
You know the one,
the one that makes us Feel good,
"...you can't kill the Spirit, it's like a Mountain old and strong..."
We Sing that in **Circles** of Song.
But We know We'd **better** Sing it, or else
We would be broken.

Women,
I propose that We Sing that Song at the capital
and then We throw red paint,
or Menstrual Blood,
on the steps of the capital
to symbolize
our Power in fighting back against the violent assault imposed against us
by the fucking racist patriarchal capitalist system.
We know what that's about without the god damned rhetoric.
What kind of action would it take to redirect
3500 years of violence?

Everything
from Earth to Soul.

Bad News, Baby

The federal, right-wing initiated, welfare reform bill limits the time a Woman can receive assistance to two years. The federal welfare reform bill denies Women receiving public assistance the right to pursue a college education. The bill offers no real means for Women to escape the 'welfare' system or poverty by limiting their opportunities for the type of education and training that would support livable wage employment. Where the bill would limit Women's opportunities to escape the 'welfare' system it would also require that Women remaining on 'welfare' labor for free in trade for their poverty wage grants. In some states the mandatory 35 hour a week work or 'community service' requirement would equate to under a dollar an hour, in most states the value of the labor would remain under the minimum wage. Overall, this type of welfare reform will ensure greater profits for capitalists because they will be able to rely upon a greater pool of unemployed peoples, who will have no choice but to accept work that pays little to nothing. The bill is structured by blatant racism in that it specifically denies assistance to 'immigrants' for the first six years of their residency. The two year time limitations, restrictions on education and training, unpaid labor requirements, and outright denial of support to 'immigrants' and young Women will leave thousands of Women and children vulnerable to severe abuse and exploitation.

Welfare means well-being. Forcing Women into poverty wage jobs that do not support the healthy integration of body, home, and community will not enable the well-being of Women and children. Denying Women the right to the quality of education that enables Women to work in jobs that support the healthy integration of body, home, and community is irresponsible. The federal welfare reform bill is mandate to increase violent assault against Women and children, the assault being directed especially towards young Women and Women of color.

If you were ever on 'welfare', or are now, then you know about the persecution, and oppression of being female and impoverished. You know what you needs, your families needs, and your communities needs are. If you're committed to taking action in opposition of right-wing welfare reform legislation then please get in touch with Patricia at 943-3045.

If you would like to gather more information concerning state or federal welfare reform proposals you can contact Margaret or Kathy with Fair Budget Action Campaign (FBAC) in Seattle at (206) 727-0370 or (206) 727-0369. If you are on 'welfare' and have any questions about your rights or are in need of advocacy you can contact Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (WROC) in Seattle at (206) 324-3060. If you feel you are being persecuted by the Department of Social and Health Services in relation to your own case and are in need of legal advocacy, you can contact the Puget Sound Legal Assistance Foundation in Olympia at 943-6585.

Anti-Fleetwood Petition Signers

The following is a list taken from the petition to the City Council for a special meeting to address the petitioners' concerns. We can only speculate on what their concerns are, but it most likely is in line with the misinformation being presented by Shawn Newman. The City Council refused to meet with the petitioners. This list is not complete and only includes those petitioners who signed using a business name, address or phone number. (For a complete list contact the City of Olympia and request a copy of the City Council Minutes including this petition.)

APPLEBAUM VIOLIN SHOP	525 Washington	956-1238
AUDIO NORTHWEST	107 Franklin	786-9512
B & B AUTO	613 State	754-2374
BARTELS	501 Capital	786-6634
CARNEGIES CAFE	302 E 7th	956-9655
CASTLE ENTERPRISES	111 Cherry	357-9406
THE CD CONNECTION	302 E 7th	705-8727
CHATTERY DOWN	209 5th	352-8483
CHERRY STREET AUTO & TIRE	410 Cherry	943-7726
COAST OFFICE	324 4th	943-6866
CUDA A B CONSTRUCTION CO INC	3022 S Lybarger	352-9213
CUSTOM FRAMES	215 E 4th	943-4747
DANCING GOATS	124 4th	754-8187
DESKOBA, INC	112 4th	352-4861
DEMARGERIE LINGERIE	121 E 5th	357-9283
DRESSING ROOM	119 5th	352-9412
ESPECIALLY MADE DESIGNS & WASHINGTON STREET FLORALS	430 Washington 426 Washington	754-1623 956-3920
FIRST COMMUNITY BANK	223 E 5th	352-2500
FOUR SEASONS	302 E 7th	705-0952
THE GALLERY	418 1/2 Washington	754-8776
GOING PLACES	515 Washington	357-6860
GREAT THINGS & GLASS	613 Capital	352-7595
GRISWOLD'S	308 4th	943-0840
HODGES INC	606 Columbia #104	943-5079
JINJOR	201 E 4th	754-0808
J R ROOFING	4426 16th	456-4750
KELLY'S AUTO	722 Capitol	352-3308
KEY BANK	105 8TH	753-8500
KOEHLERS FURNITURE	220 Legion	357-5531
LITTLE RICHARDS	117 E 5th	357-6808
LYNCH PAINT CO	501 E 4th	943-1170
MUSEUM DOOR	410 Washinton	705-1895
OLD BANK BOOK	404 Washinton	786-9234
OLYMPIA PRINTING	704 Franklin	943-5453
PANOWICZ JEWELERS	500 Capitol	357-4943
PIZZAZZ	513 Washington	352-7256
PROFFITT'S CAFE	406 4th	357-8187
PURELY PHYSICAL	325 E 4th	943-6269
SALVATION ARMY	808 5th	352-8596
SPOON AUTO	State & Cherry	357-4484
STOP AND GO AUTO SERVICE	600 4TH	786-8100
STORMAN'S	1932 E 4th	754-2203
URBAN ONION	116 Legion	943-9242
U.S. MARINE SALES	512 E 4th	352-8288
WALT'S RADIATOR	517 E 4th	357-8995
WASHINGTON CENTER	512 Washington	753-8585
WASHINGTON TRAVEL, INC	116 E. Legion	352-7055

Anti-Fleetwood Fax Senders

The following is a list of businesses that faxed the City Council to express their clearly stated opposition to the Fleetwood project.
(For a copy contact the City of Olympia and request a copy of the City Council Minutes including the above petition and related faxes.)

APPLEBAUM VIOLIN SHOP	525 Washington	956-1238
BONA VENTURE SHOES	528 Capital	943-4899
COAST OFFICE	324 4th	943-6866
KELLY'S AUTO	722 Capitol	352-3308
LITTLE RICHARDS	117 E 5th	357-6808
MUSEUM DOOR	410 Washinton	705-1895
THE GALLERY	418 1/2 Washington	754-8776
PANOWICZ JEWELERS	500 Capitol	357-4943
PIZZAZZ	513 Washington	352-7256
PURELY PHYSICAL	325 E 4th	943-6269
SALVATION ARMY	808 5th	352-8596
WIND UP HERE	406 Washington	943-9045
WORKIN' MAN'S CLOSET	426 Washington	705-2960

(Homeless, Continued)

asked by the merchants to dig up an anti-Fleetwood platform from the grant proposal LIHI had submitted to the Housing Trust Fund. Ginger Segal of LIHI told me that Newman had never contacted LIHI, or requested to be a participant in the Community Advisory Committee that would allow Newman (or the Downtown Merchants) to have their concerns regarding the Fleetwood addressed.

Shawn Newman was out of town at press time could not be reached for comment. He will have the opportunity to respond to this article in next month's *Works in Progress.*

Of C.A.TS., C.A.S.T, and the Salvation Army

Regular readers of this publication may recall that a similarly-minded group of business owners created the short-lived CATS, the Citizens Afraid to Speak the Truth; and the follow-up group CAST, the Citizens Agreeing to Speak the Truth, about a year ago. At that time, the merchants were attempting to block homeless advocates from acquiring the Federal building on Capitol Way through the McKinney Act, but their efforts were ultimately unsuccessful.

Since the efforts to acquire the Federal building were, to a significant extent, driven by the dissatisfaction many homeless people have had with the Salvation Army shelter, it is worth noting that *Works in Progress* has learned from a downtown business person that these merchants have relied on Dr. Donald Grim, a member of the Board of Directors of the Salvation Army, for supplying the Downtown Merchants with information about the Fleetwood. Although I haven't been able to get a copy of the Dr. Grim materials, it is obvious from his earlier leadership participation in CAST that this information is of a similar nature as the Newman material; inflammatory, biased, and arguably discriminatory.

The Salvation Army is stating publicly that they have no stance whatsoever toward the Fleetwood building, although Newman has consistently trumpeted that fact that the Fleetwood apartments aren't needed because the "30 bed vacancy rate at the Salvation Army shelter". Although this fact that has no bearing on the need for *permanent housing* whatsoever, it is worth noting that this vacancy rate has been made a reality by keeping 100-150+ men out of the Salvation Army shelter on denial. Mike Allen, Community Services Director, has maintained that these men are kept out of the shelter for being violent or inebriated, while members of the homeless community have told homeless advocates that they have been barred or kicked out of the shelter for unjust reasons (see the March '95 *WiP* article, "Why the Salvation Army Shelter Still Doesn't Work" for details).

Illing's "Friends of Sylvester Park"

This group is not associated with the Downtown Merchants, although the aim is the same: raise fears about the homeless through spurious misinformation and, hopefully, stop the Fleetwood. Unlike Shawn Newman or the Downtown Merchants, however, Illing is not maintaining that the Fleetwood will be a shelter; he maintains that it will be "'transitional' housing" instead. He has, nevertheless, borrowed Newman's misleading statistic concerning how "73% [of Fleetwood's residents] will come from outside Olympia." The bright yellow flyer that he has been

Who is Shawn Newman and Why Association of Downtown Busine

SHAWN TIMOTHY NE
ATTORNEY AT LAV
924 Capitol Way South, Suite
Olympia, WA 98501-1210
PH: 206/357-7437
FAX: 206/357-5467
July 19, 1994

The Honorable Ralph Munro
Secretary of State
State of Washington
Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40220
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honor
Attorney G
State of W
905 Plum S
P.O. Box 4
Olympia, W

RE: Demand for investigation of Campaign Violations

Dear Mr. Secretary and General Gregoire:

I am writing you on behalf of several initiative drives, includi
Accountability Now [CLEAN] sponsor of I-606; The Committ
and I-624; Washington Taxpayer Protection Coalition, sponso
sponsor of I-611; Citizens for Law and Order, sponsor of I-62
Protection Coalition, sponsor or I-626; The Committee for Ec
sponsor of I-608, and Washington Citizens for Justice, sponso
willingness to investigate election law violations which occurr

Many of the initiatives experienced the illegal tactics attribut
intimidation, threats, profanity, spitting, etc. We believe thes
power - the first power reserved to the people under the Was
believe these tactics violate not only state law (RCW 2.79.490

We believe it is vital for the integrity of the initiative process th
complete investigation. We are willing to help in any way we
thorough and complete.

Please contact us if we can be of assistance in this important i

Sincerely,

Shawn Tim
CLEAN C
Attorney a

cc: Bob & Judy Nix, I-634
Dave LaCourse, I-159
Dorsett Smith, MD, I-608
Dick Garrett, I-625
Tony Burden, MD, I-611
Dan Wood, I-626
Dave Mortensen, I-623& I-624

This is a copy of a letter that is included with the offici
distributed by I-608's Washington Committee for "Equa
March 8, 1995.

distributing argues that "Compassion isn't the issue...geography is!," and encourages local citizens to call city representatives to raise objections to the Fleetwood, and to send him donations to "promote our cause in the media".

WiP has learned that, unlike Newman, Illing has contacted LIHI through one of their housing facilities in Seattle, the Orion Court. LIHI told me that Illing asked questions about the Orion Court for about a half hour, but when asked by the project director why he wanted this information, Illing refused to answer.

Illing has also made no move to join the Community Advisory Board that LIHI has initiated to air his concerns. He claims, in his flyer, to be concerned about the location of LIHI's housing project ("Wouldn't other areas of the city be more appropriate for all concerned?"), but has never, to the best of my knowledge, ever voiced his concern regarding Sylvester Park, even though LIHI has been concentrating solely on developing permanent housing in the Fleetwood since last August.

LIHI's Community Forum

Despite all the misinformation and manufactured controversy, and the fact that the Olympia Downtown Association and Shawn Newman refused to attend, the March 16th Community Forum was well-attended by a diverse group of Olympians. Among those present were Mayor Bob Jacobs, city council members Pat Cole and Jeanette Hawkins, representatives from Community, Trade, and Economic Development, Dean Jones of Four Season Books, Jeffrey Trinin of Always Safe and Lock, John Walsh of Community Action Council, and a number of low income housing advocates. On hand to make presentations and answer questions were Sharon Lee, executive director of LIHI, Les Tonkin, the Fleetwood's architect, and Linda Condon from Friends of the Fleetwood.

The most moving testimony of community solidarity on this project came when an audience member asked what businesses were involved in trying to stop the Fleetwood. When Dean Jones, who has been a very visible opponent of the Fleetwood, refused to divulge which businesses were working with Newman, this audience member repeated her desire to know their names so that she could boycott those businesses in protest. About half the audience cheered and clapped.

The bottom line

Clearly, these community members who have thrown their support behind the Fleetwood know that groups that depend on anonymity and cowardly fear-mongering, while refusing to take any proactive action whatsoever to air their concerns, are not worthy of being taken seriously.

The Downtown Merchants have a long history of contentiousness toward low income people in general, and have done little to contribute to a positive solution to their concerns about the homeless individuals in downtown Olympia. Shawn Newman also shares a similar history (see related article, this issue), and, like Illing, has only recently made his strong feelings concerning the Fleetwood public. Where were these people when LIHI was searching in vain for an alternative site to the Fleetwood?

As a local historian who has followed this issue closely for over two years, I invite you to draw your own conclusions. Reflect on each group's motivation for behaving as they do, and decide for yourself. ◆

Economic Redefinition Through Consumer Responsibility

Pat Tassoni

The task of being a responsible consumer is a heavy burden. Before we even get the product, there are environmental issues to consider such as packaging, recyclability / composition of the product, environmental-transportation effects of production, product testing, etc. There are also social considerations to production, such as who is the manufacturer, what is their record on worker relations and worker rights, union relations, what is done with company profits, what is the racial and gender composition of the company from the administrative levels to the factory floor, marketing and advertising issues, etc.

About the product itself, there is the durability and quality of the product. This is the level at which we all have been engaged, possibly spending too much time on deciding which one of the twenty kinds of cereal to buy, or if this one is being offered at a quarter less, does that make it worth it even if it's not my favorite? I think this should actually be the least of our considerations. Putting a dollar value on a product designed, produced, marketed, sold, and consumed by humans neglects the human factor that is the most important part of the product. After all what is the economy except its people? It's not the produced things with lives of their own, of which we are but a part — we the people are the system. We need to return to putting meaning back into ourselves as people by embracing the part of ourselves that is consumer. It's not "the person who dies with the most toys wins" – but the society that kills the least persons wins.

It goes without saying that large corporations, chain stores and restaurants exploit their workers and our world most. In part because of their size, they are resistant to take responsibility and be accountable for their actions. National and international boycotts and letter writing campaigns are successful in changing a business' practice, but that requires a lot of time and energy. Consumer responsibility is necessary to redefining the economy.

Stores and restaurants sell not only products, but also their view and practice of economy. This is often overlooked. The way businesses *do business* is as much of what we buy as *what* we buy. The most obvious example of good business are cooperatives, such as the Olympia Food Co-op and the Pleasant Peasant. They responsibly stock their shelves and serve products from responsible companies. They also responsibly employ and manage workers. And even above and beyond this, the Oly Co-op supports a responsible economy by offering direct discounts to working members, passing profits along to buyers in the form of lower prices, and giving funds and supplies to worthy groups working on important economic issues in our community. What they give is what they get — a dedicated, caring and committed community.

The businesses that we can have the most effect on are those closest to us; the ones where we work, shop, and own. The consumer voice is heard loudest at local small businesses. The Olympia Farmworkers Justice Committee, in educating people on the issue of the unionization of farmworkers at the Chateau Ste Michelle wineries, has had success only with small businesses with their consumer boycott. Chain stores and chain restaurants have not responded because they are too big to be reached by their customers. Some small businesses take on the attitude of their big brothers and don't respond to their customers and ignore the issue. What do we do when small businesses act like large corporations? Our community is already crammed with enough careless economic corporations that we don't need small businesses only pretending to be our friend. This has recently become an important issue to our community with the low-income housing project at the Fleetwood Building. The continued search for a shoppable downtown by the business community and the city council through the implementation of restrictive ordinances aimed at those who are already there does not take into account that what is really needed is businesses that act responsibly to their community.

What do we do when small businesses act like large corporations? Our community is already crammed with enough careless economic corporations that we don't need small businesses only pretending to be our friend.

In response to all of this and more, the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace and *Works In Progress* announce the beginning of a project to assess the social responsibility of small businesses, especially those downtown. Now more than ever it is important to know where we are putting our money. It will be along the lines of the book *Shopping for a Better World* and will rate businesses on environmental issues, social responsibility, business practice, worker status. If you would like to help with this project please contact: OMJP/WIP at PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507 or call 705-2726. ◆

d Why Have the Businesses Hired Him?

THY NEWMAN
Y AT LAW
South, Suite 209
98501-1210
357-7437
/357-5467
, 1994

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Attorney General
State of Washington
005 Plum Street, Bldg. #3
P.O. Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504

ions

es, including: Citizens for Legislative Ethics and
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ce, sponsor of I-159. We thank you for your
ich occurred during the recent campaign season.

:s attributed to the Bigot Busters, including
elieve these activities undermine the initiative
r the Washington State Constitution. We
V 2.79.490) but also our fundamental civil rights.

process that your offices conduct a thorough and
y way we can to ensure that the investigation is

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CLEAN Chairman I-606
Attorney at Law

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FROM EARTH DAY TO EARTH PAY

John C. Stauber

Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of Earth Day. The idea for the first Earth Day began in 1969 at the height of the movement against the war in Vietnam, when Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson borrowed the idea for a student environmental teach-in from the tactics of anti-war organizers.

On April 22, 1970, the event mushroomed into an almost spontaneous happening in which millions of Americans demonstrated in the streets, parks and schools of America against pollution. A massive grassroots environmental reform movement was born overnight.

The student organizers of the original Earth Day saw the common systemic roots of both the war against Vietnam and the ecological destruction of the biosphere. Denis Hayes spoke passionately to a Washington, DC, protest rally: "Our country is stealing from poorer nations and from generations yet unborn. . . . We're tired of being told we are to blame for corporate depredations...institutions have no conscience. If we want them to do what is right, we must make them do what is right."

That was then, but this is now. The new doctrine, according to current Earth Day USA President Bruce Anderson, is that "We're all to blame, everyone of us." And since we're all equally guilty, it's easy to forgive polluting industries. "If a business says they want to improve their environmental record, it's not up to Earth Day USA to be the judge and jury of their past behavior," says Anderson, a business consultant and solar architect.

Founded in 1991 by Anderson and Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day USA plans to make the event's 25th anniversary the biggest eco-publicity blast of all time. But whereas previous Earth Day organizations protested the actions of polluting corporations, Earth Day USA is pro-business and has even hired one of the world's largest PR firms to plan, develop and execute EarthDay 1995. They welcome corporate involvement, aggressively pursue business funding, and scoff at concerns of corporate greenwashing.

What about the decision by previous Earth Day groups to reject large corporate contributions? Anderson finds that notion annoyingly outdated. "Confrontation is the old way. We have to work together hand-in-hand, arm-in-arm, or we're wasting time, fiddling while the planet burns."

"If a company expresses earnestness and a desire to change, Earth Day USA works with them," explains Earth Day USA board member Jerry Klamon. "We would work with companies others probably wouldn't, because we see the need for the 'carrot' approach. These companies need to be nurtured and brought along."

Klamon's St. Louis group accepts funding from chemical giant Monsanto and other corporations, and relies on the donated work of corporate public relations firms. "We need to use tactics that people are habituated to following," he says. "These PR people are obviously good at penetrating the American consciousness."

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The current annual Earth Day USA budget is about $300,000 and quickly growing, thanks to business donations. For $20,000, almost any company can become an official Earth Day sponsor. Further negotiations with Bruce Anderson can buy permission to use the official Earth Day USA logo. For $7,000 a company can sponsor an issue of the newsletter which is mailed to more than 4,000 grassroots organizers. Other corporate deals are available for as little as $5,000.

BUILDING "THE TEAM"

Earth Day USA has virtually no 'screen' — social or environmental standards — to determine which companies can be sponsors. So far, about 20 corporations are sponsors or are engaged in negotiations, including Ralston Purina, Business Wire, Church & Dwight, Procter & Gamble, 3M and News America FSI Inc.

In addition to selling sponsorships and seeking grants from nonprofit foundations, Earth Day USA is contemplating the spin-off of another organization now called "The Earth Day Corporate Team," or simply "The Team."

According to an internal Earth Day USA memo, the Team would consist of "environmental leaders within corporations in the United States." It would be "organized as a separate non-profit corporation," but its board would be dominated by the leaders of Earth Day USA.

The Team would "provide corporations with their own vehicle" for participating in Earth Day activities. The Team would also "enhance the fundraising opportunities for Earth Day USA and the other members of the Earth Day Family."

To protect its own image, Earth Day USA would "retain some independence from its corporate arm to preserve the innocence and inclusiveness of the Earth Day spirit."

For PR purposes, Earth Day USA has enlisted one of the world's largest public relations firms, Shandwick, to carry out program development and communications. Bruce Anderson personally hired Shandwick's Dorf & Stanton (D&S) subsidiary after a breakfast meeting in Washington, DC, with their Senior Vice President Allen Finch. Dorf & Stanton charges Earth Day USA a greatly reduced fee.

Anderson told PR Watch that he likes Allen Finch's attitude. "I see Dorf & Stanton's commitment to Earth Day USA expanding every day. He looks at it the same way I do: Earth Day is an incredible gift with a potentially tremendous impact."

"It's not up to us to be the judge and jury," says Earth Day USA President Bruce Anderson. His group uses virtually no environmental standards to determine which companies can sign on as sponsors.

Dorf & Stanton specializes in "environmental services." According to the firm's promotional material, "Our staff boasts broad experience . . . necessary to guide corporate environmental strategies.... From analyzing pending legislative and regulatory developments, to creating alternative product and packaging solutions, we're helping companies . . . maximize green market opportunities, mitigate environmental risks and protect the bottom line." The bottom line at D&S contributes to the $11,225,000 that parent firm Shandwick received in 1992 for "environmental PR".

Besides Earth Day USA, Dorf & Stanton represents Ciba-Geigy, Chase Manhattan Bank, Ford Motor Company, Hydro-Quebec, Monsanto, Pfizer, Procter & Gamble, Purina Mills, Sumitomo Bank, Tetra Pak and dozens of other corporate clients. D&S claims it "has access to the corridors of power at the federal level and every state capital, local business community and newsroom."

Someone else at Earth Day USA who has access to Washington's corridors of power is Gaylord Nelson. Since losing his 1980 re-election bid for the US Senate, Nelson has been a lobbyist for the Wilderness Society. Now he is also working with "13 different government agencies" and the Clinton administration to organize a huge April 22, 1995, event on the DC Mall that "will probably attract more than a quarter-million people".

PURE NO MORE

The term "corporate greenwashing" wasn't yet coined during the original Earth Day, but it was already a problem. "Political and business leaders once hoped that they could turn the environmental movement into a massive anti-litter campaign," observed Denis Hayes, the student leader of the 1970 teach-ins. "Industry has turned the environmental problem over to its public relations men.... We have learned not to believe the advertising."

PR Watch asked Senator Nelson if he is concerned about green-washing. "No, the issue is overblown. If a corporation is moving to be green, that's just fine. Since 1970, there's been a dramatic change. Many of today's corporate leaders participated in Earth Day in college; it turned them into environmentalists. A couple of them were just in my office."

Nelson said he actually welcomes corporate co-optation of Earth Day. "We're not going to have a sustainable society unless all interest groups are on board. I'm glad to see corporations joining in. If they try to co-opt Earth Day, they'll just help spread environmental propaganda. I'm not worried about greenwashing."

Nelson has little use for the "I'm purer than you" attitude which he said infected previous Earth Day organizations.

Does it bother Gaylord Nelson that Earth Day USA is represented by a PR firm whose clients include some of the world's biggest polluters? Nelson scoffed and replied, "I have no concerns about that. They are a PR firm. They represent all kinds of people. It's like hiring a lawyer. If he represents a murderer or a crooked businessman, that's what lawyers do. Am I not to hire him?

John Stauber is the editor of PR Watch. For subscription information, write PR Watch, 3318 Gregory Street, Madison, WI 53711, USA. ◆

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Mexican Crisis

The Falling Peso is Tip of the Iceberg

Tom Hansen

Mexico is in crisis, and the falling peso is only the tip of the iceberg. The truly compelling story of Mexico begins with 40 million people - nearly half of the population - who live in desperate poverty.

I just returned from a trip to the state of Chiapas in southern Mexico, site of the Zapatista rebellion. To visit the indigenous communities is to understand the roots of this uprising.

In the communities of Chimula, over 50,000 Mayan campesinos live in virtual servitude to 100 "casiques" who control all commerce in the area Casiques set the price for coffee, the major cash crop for small producers. They control the sale of literally everything from candles to fuel to soft drinks.

During the past two decades, the casiques expelled over 20,000 indigenous campesinos for attempting to organize alternative economic structures, or for simply preaching the Gospel from a Protestant perspective. The heavy hand of the "Guardias Blancas," or death squads, ensure that the "expulsados" will not return.

The Guardias Blancas are active throughout Chiapas, enforcing the will of ranchers and landowners at the expense of the poor majority. These hired strong men often work in coordination with military and police officials, leaving campesinos in constant fear of state-sponsored repression.

Officially sanctioned racism leaves little hope for the majority indigenous population. For 500 years the Mayans have been kept in servitude in their own homeland.

Centuries ago Mayan Indians farmed the fertile lowlands of southern Mexico's coastal regions. Over a period of 500 years, the Mayans have been forced off their lands and into the cold, rocky mountains. The terrain is barren and inhospitable. Corn, the staple source of food, is cultivated by hand on nearly vertical hillsides, while the fertile valleys are reserved for cattle ranchers who export their meat to fast food restaurants in the United States.

In the mountains, temperatures often drop below freezing at night, and nearly every month infants and seniors die from exposure. It is a very hard life.

To know their lives is to understand their struggle. Throughout Mexico the demands of indigenous groups for land and liberty resonate with an historic urgency. While armed revolt is controversial, the justice of the demands are universally recognized.

Pastors for Peace is beginning to work with the indigenous peoples of Chiapas. We invite you to join in this historic struggle The implications are profound, not only for Mexico but for their neighbor to the north - ourselves.

Since the signing of NAFTA, and with the increasingly rapid globalization of the economy, Mexico and the United States are more closely tied than ever. The standards of justice in Mexico portend the standards in our own country. The struggle of Mexicans is more and more our own struggle.

President Clinton side-stepped Congress and unilaterally offered a $20 billion "rescue" package to Mexico. With IMF and other international loans, the total package will exceed $50 billion, one-fifth of Mexico's gross national product, and all of this to "save" international investors, the corrupt ruling PRI party and Clinton's NAFTA.

The crisis is largely the result of politically motivated manipulations on the part of former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and his PRI party, and President Clinton. NAFTA passed on promises that Mexico would increase imports from the U.S. thereby increasing jobs here at home.

This was true the first year. U.S. exports to Mexico increased by 16%, aided by a grossly over-valued peso. With the peso losing over 40% of its value in the past month, U.S. imports have been priced out of the Mexican market. And U.S. jobs will soon be heading south in droves. Had the peso been devalued slowly and systematically during the NAFTA debate, the real economic implications would have been clear, and NAFTA probably would have failed.

Former President Salinas had the interests of the ruling PRI in mind when his government put off a gradual and controlled peso devaluation. The result would have been politically unpalatable inflation leading up to the August national elections. PRI candidates would have been in serious danger of widespread losses, assuming the PRI election machine permitted honest elections. In 1994 the PRI spent over 75% of Mexico's hard currency reserves defending an overvalued peso, leaving the country with less than $6 billion by December. It is this mismanagement for political gain that is largely responsible for the current crisis.

Who gains from an additional $20 billion in U.S. assistance? International investors, the vast majority from the United States or the wealthy upper crust of Mexican society, will reap the benefits. The money and loan guarantees will protect their investments in "tesobonos," highly volatile bonds that finance Mexico's huge foreign debt and $28 billion trade deficit.

And who loses? United States tax payers are, in effect, guaranteeing the investments of the wealthy. But ultimately, the Mexican people will be saddled with additional long term debt. The $50 billion package will increase Mexico's debt burden and will eventually come out of the pockets of Mexican taxpayers. This is no small potatoes in a country where the minimum wage is 33 cents an hour. And if Mexico defaults on loans, a likely possibility given a national debt equivalent to 58% of GNP, United States taxpayers will pick up the tab.

There is a solution to Mexico's crisis. Genuine democratic reforms and honest, transparent financial arrangements on the part of the government will give Mexico international credibility. The PRI must give up over six decades of corrupt one-party control, and the 40 million Mexicans living in dire poverty must achieve economic as well as political justice. Only serious political reform can produce lasting progress.

Today, the center of the struggle for justice in Mexico is Chiapas. Hundreds of thousands of indigenous peasants are united in their just demands. In many profound ways, their struggle is our future. For the justice of their demands, and for the future of our own country, it is time to stand with them.

In mid-February, Pastors for Peace sent an observer delegation to Chiapas to stand with the indigenous peasants in their struggle. We will learn about the very complicated situation in Chiapas, and throughout Mexico, and prepare a report for distribution in churches and communities throughout the United States.

In March, Pastors for Peace sent our first material aid caravan to Chiapas. We will deliver food, medicine and boots to civilian populations, including those living in zones of conflict. We will work with the Catholic diocese and several grassroots groups to insure a just distribution.

Who gains from an additional $20 billion in U.S. assistance? International investors, the vast majority from the United States or the wealthy upper crust of Mexican society will reap the benefits.

These two projects will begin a long term commitment to the people of Mexico in their struggle for economic and political justice. We ask you to join this struggle as well.

Mexico is an important new commitment for Pastors for Peace, and we would like to begin this work on the right foot. Please give generously. As usual, your donation will be managed frugally. Less than 4% of our budget is used for administrative purposes. And all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please make your donation payable to IFCO-Pastors for Peace. 331 17th Ave., SE Minneapolis, MN 55414 (612) 378-0062.

Tom Hansen is Director, Pastors for Peace ◆

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– Noam Chomsky

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Bainbridge-Ometepe Sister Islands

Kim Esterberg

Begun in late 1986, the first "sister island" relationship with Nicaragua was initiated by a small group of Bainbridge Islanders looking south for another island community with whom to begin a long term relationship of peace making, in striking contrast to the current events of the time. When I made the first trip to Nicaragua in November, 1986, Eugene Hasenfus was being tried in a Nicaraguan court after his secret Contra supply plane was shot down. It was at that moment that the Iran-Contra scandal broke. In the years since then the involvement of the United States in Nicaraguan affairs has ranged from an economic blockade and covert supplies of arms and training to the Contras, to Structural Adjustment Policies, or (SAP's) to force a dramatic privatization of the economy and reduction of social expenditures.

It is in this context that our two island communities have forged our very special, unofficial relationship. From the outset it was our goal to spread awareness and involvement to every sector of our two islands, and not to be limited by the politics of either of our island communities. We have worked closely with the medical professionals from both islands, and fielded six medical teams to Ometepe, provided two ambulances and a training grant for rural health promoters. We have purchased the entire export crop of coffee from the largest Cooperative on Ometepe, and it is stored and roasted by Pegasus Coffee of Bainbridge. This is our first commercial venture, and the islanders from both islands have learned together about international commerce. This joint project provides not only a much fairer price for the coffee to the cooperative, but also is the economic engine that drives most of our other activities. Primarily we have used the money to buy the technical expertise and materials to provide potable water systems to the very poorest communities on Ometepe. These communities provide all the labor and local coordination. We are currently working on our second system. The first is complete with 56 families benefitting.

Education projects have been the backbone of our relationship. We began by working with a parent/teacher group on Ometepe to finance the construction of a preschool in Altagracia, one of the main towns. Since that time we have continued the process and financed two more preschools, three classrooms and a high school auditorium. In addition, we have fielded five student delegations from Bainbridge to Ometepe. These students spend 10 days on Ometepe, live with local families ad work with young people there, usually on a school project. We also have established a college scholarship program, where individuals and organizations on Bainbridge support worthy students from our sister island, as they continue their studies in Managua at the university. This program is administered from Ometepe, by two communities in the two major towns, and the funding side is administered here on Bainbridge, by another committee.

Over the years there have been many visits from Bainbridge to Ometepe, and we have had five visitors from Ometepe to Bainbridge. On March 30, twenty-two people will leave here to go on the 1995 Student Delegation. They will live and work with the young people of three different towns: Moyogalpa, Altagracia and Balgue on Ometepe. They have been preparing for the trip for several months, with a series of workshops on "Cultural Sensitivity," "History of Nicaragua'" "How and What to Pack," etc. It has been our experience that these visits shape both their views of the world and sometimes their future plans in life. All the things we do, we do in common with other counterparts to the south. It is a model we are proud of and it remains a striking contrast to the official U.S. relationship with Nicaragua, even to this day. As a plaque on the wall of Arlen Siu preschool reads, "Juntos Construimos La Paz, Ometepe y Bainbridge." Together we build the Peace, Ometepe and Bainbridge."

For more information on BOSIA: (206) 842-8148

For more information on TSTSCA: 866-9193 or 754-8829; 1958 Westridge Lane, Olympia WA 98502. ◆

As a plaque on the wall of Arlen Siu preschool reads, "Juntos Construimos La Paz, Ometepe y Bainbridge." Together we build the Peace, Ometepe and Bainbridge."

Local Sister Ties to Nicaragua

Susan Kibbey

The Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association (TSTSCA) is a non-governmental organization that exists for the mutual benefit of both communities. We began in 1988 to foster sustained relationships and greater understanding between the people of Santo Tomas, Chontales, Nicaragua and Thurston County, Washington through the development of personal friendships, community ties, and people-to-people exchanges. We believe in promoting peace and a just relationship through activities that support self determination and self-sufficiency of the Nicaraguan people. Over the past seven years, our contact has been quite diverse: a volunteer construction brigade that helped build a women's sewing cooperative center in Santo Tomas, a delegation of "Tomasinos" that visited the Northwest and spoke out in schools and churches, participation in the Pastors for Peace caravans and delivery of material aid to our sister county, financial support of several rural Nicaraguan grade school teachers and a medical student scholarship, and more. We will host a second delegation from Santo Tomas this fall. Local peace activist Glen Anderson said of our work: "The Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association provides us a warm human touch and connects us with living, breathing individuals. It does this continuously regardless of whether Nicaragua is in or out of the news. Ultimately, it is human connections such as these that lay the strongest foundation for long lasting peace and justice".

On Monday April 17th, you are personally invited to join us in welcoming to Olympia, an enthusiastic group from Bainbridge Island (just west of Seattle) with sister ties in Nicaragua.

Six members of the Bainbridge-Ometepe Sister Island Association (BOSIA) will talk about the development of that extensive relationship, including young people to speak on the early April return from Nicaragua of their fifth high school student delegation. You can look forward to hearing first hand coverage of the current situation in Nicaragua. The 7 p.m. presentation will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 1224 E. Legion Way, in Olympia. Light refreshments will be provided.

BOSIA founder Kim Esterberg will be a part of the April 17th event in Olympia. Please see his article for background on the island association.

For more information on BOSIA: (206) 842-8148

For more information on TSTSCA: 866-9193 or 754-8829; 1958 Westridge Lane, Olympia WA 98502. ◆

We believe in promoting peace and a just relationship through activities that support self determination and self-sufficiency of the Nicaraguan people.

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Working to Build the Peace in El Salvador

Bob Zeigler

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– Oscar Romer

Many of the elements of the peace accords have not been completed and international pressure will be needed to ensure they are carried out. These include land reform, end of death squads and reform of the judicial systems. There is concern because the UN (ONUSAL) will leave April 30, 1995. There is concern that this could mean an end to the peace accords. There continues to be both great fears and also great hopes in the people of El Salvador.

There have been many gains as well as setbacks. After the wars and elections, a realignment is taking place across the political spectrum. The ruling right wing Arena Party has internal conflicts. The former central-right Christian Democratic Party of former President Duarte has self destructed. The FMLN has broken into two parts with Expression of the People's Renovation (ERP) and National Resistance (RN) withdrawing from the FMLN to pursue the political center and form coalitions with small business interests and work for reform. On the left remain a more unified FMLN consisting of Forces of Popular Liberation (FPL), Central American Revolutionary Workers' Party (PRTC) and Salvadoran Communist Party (PCS) that sees socialism as a goal even if as a very distant hope. Some see the splintering of the political parties as a threat to the peace process, while others see it as pluralism and diversity and adaptability that will further the process for peace and justice.

Some see the splintering of the political parties as a threat to the peace process, while others see it as pluralism and diversity and adaptability that will further the process for peace and justice.

ACTIONS:

Help if you can:

1. Fast and Lobby to Close U.S. Army School of the Americas was held from March 24 - 30.

SOA is where most Latin American dictators and death squads leaders have been trained was held from March 24 - 30.

ACTION NEEDED: **Write: U.S. Representatives and Senators** (Linda Smith in Thurston County), U.S. House, Washington, D.C. 20515 and Senators Patty Murray and Slade Gorton, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 and urge: **end all funding of U.S. Army's School of Americas.**

2. El Salvador Peace Needs Help in Lands Transfer

The Salvadoran Peace Accords promised a Land Transfer Program that would be funded primarily by U.S. Aid for International Development (AID). In 3 years, 70% of the land to be transferred has not been. Seventy percent of the former rebels and 75% of former army have not received land promised. Repatriated communities like Segundo Montes where Jennifer Casolo worked are most at risk. Landlords who were once willing sellers are now organizing to take back the land by force.

NEEDED ACTION: **WRITE U.S. AID, 2201 "C" ST.NW, Washington, D.C. 20520 and urge that Salvadoran Lands Transfers provided in the Peace Accords be completed and carried out peacefully.**

Write: President of the Republic, S.E. Dr. Armando Calderon Sol, Presidente de la Republica, Casa Presidencial, San Salvador, El Salvador (50¢ postage) and urge the same.

3. Stop Salvadoran Death Squad Activity

The UN (ONUSAL) and a commission that studied death squad activity (Grupo Conjunto) consider the nature and activities of these death squads are different than those that operated during the war. Instead of being organized under senior military command, these death squads carry out "private justice" settling old political scores and "social cleansing" of the marginalized sector. Many of these groups are comprised of former or current members of armed forces or police. Some are ex-rebel combatants.

A recent target is Wilfredo Valencia Palacios, Deputy Director of The Oscar Romero AIDS Project in El Salvador. He has received many death threats and been beaten, abducted and shot at. Amnesty International has taken up his case.

NEEDED ACTION: Contact: President of the Republic, S.E. Dr. Armando Calderon Sol, Presidente de la Republica, Casa Presidencial, San Salvador, El Salvador (Postage 50¢ for letters) or send faxes: O11—503-271—0950; urge him to:

1. Bring to justice those giving death threats and attacking Wilfredo Valencia Palacios;
2. Ensure his safety;
3. Implement recommendations of Grupo Conjunto to eradicate the death squads.

For additional information on El Salvador make a contribution to CRISPAZ (Christians for Peace in El Salvador) and ask them to send the newsletter *SALVANET*. CRISPAZ, 1135 Mission Rd. San Antonio, Texas 78210.

Call Central America Working Group at 202-546-7010 for info. At key times they have a hotline 202-543-2282 with recorded messages.

Direct Support to Co-op Efforts are important. Some include:

1. Buy Cafe Salvador (Equal Exchange Coffee) from small co-ops. Available in Olympia from the Olympia Food Co-op and Bayview Market.
2. Contribute to Jose Alas' small scale, environment friendly development projects among base communities in El Salvador. Make checks to ITAMA and send to ITAMA, 3201 Sunrise Road, Round Rock, Texas 78664. ◆

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Eyes Right

A new publication from the ACLU explores the extent of religious conservatives' organizing and influence in Washington State. The Religious Right in Washington: A Special Report, released in January, is already in its second printing.

The fifty-page document opens with profiles of eleven national Religious Right organizations active here, then moves to brief sketches of eleven more state-based groups. Notable among the latter are the Washington Citizens Alliance, Washington for Traditional Values, and the Washington Public Affairs Council - all featuring activists prominent in statewide anti-gay organizing - and three groups fronted by former state legislators now actively working to influence public policy: Family In Touch (Ellen Craswell), Washington Evangelicals for Responsible Government (Skeeter Ellis) and the Evergreen Freedom Foundation (Bob Williams). Short descriptions of the history of Religious Right organizing and of Religious Right ideology follow.

The strength of The Religious Right in Washington, as might be expected in a report commissioned by the ACLU, lies in an overview of religious conservatives' attempts to curtail civil liberties. Sections entitled "The Right to Choose Abortion", "The Campaign Against Gay and Lesbian Rights", and "Public Schools" contain analysis and history difficult to find elsewhere, and a number of interesting tidbits. Did you know, for example, that state senator Harold Hochstatter (R-Moses Lake) was once arrested for helping to blockade Spokane's Sixth Avenue Medical Building during an anti-abortion protest (p. 31)? That Washington state "Ranked in the top 10 states in requests for removal of books and curricula from the public schools during the past decade" (p. 40)? Or that a dozen students dropped out of a 1992 high school biology class in Mount Baker School District to protest the instructor's refusal to teach creationism (p. 44)?

Occasionally awkward sentence construction affects the report's aesthetic appeal, and the odd minor inaccuracy (a headline referring to the Citizens Alliance of Washington as the "Washington Alliance of Citizens", for example) and lack of footnoting reduces its usefulness to serious researchers. But this is vital information. The fact that this is the first comprehensive look at Religious Right activity in Washington state should make it required reading for anyone concerned about where we're heading.

To order *The Religious Right in Washington: A Special Report* send $5 per copy to ACLU-Washington, 705 Second Avenue, Suite 300 Hoge Building, Seattle, WA 98204-1799. An additional $20 will get you ACLU membership. ◆

Britain's Retirement Rage

Stephen Beard

When free market idealogues start talking about the benefits of government privitization, Americans might do well to remember the fate of nearly half a million Britons who were cajoled into leaving their government — and company-sponsored pensions for private money-management schemes — and then lost out badly.

As part of its agenda of shunting off troublesome public services to the care of the free market, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government began in 1988 to change British laws regulating personal pensions. The government's primary concern was the escalating cost of the very generous State Earnings Related Pension Scheme. It also knew that pension plans funded by a person's employer were a major obstacle to creating a mobile, flexible workforce.

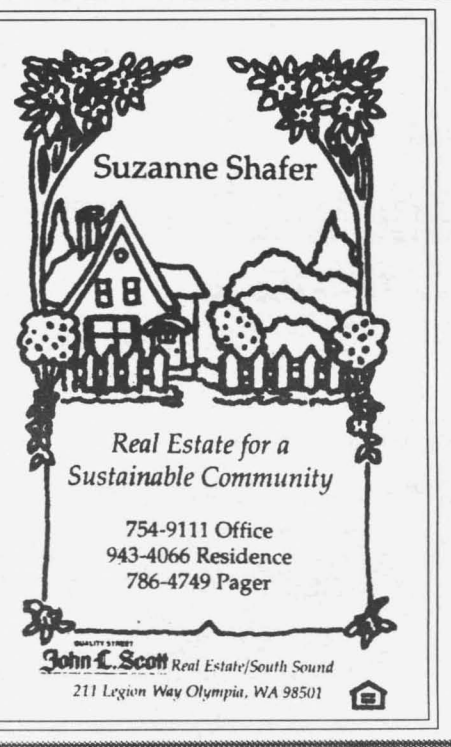
So the Conservative government — including current Prime Minister John Major, then a junior minister — zealously encouraged Britons to opt out of state pension schemes. And as a boost to the budding private pension industry, participants in company-run pension plans were also encouraged to take their funds to private manager, a move that angered many large corporations.

It now appears that the vast majority of workers who were persuaded to make the switch have been burned. Salesmen and financial advisers misled prospective customers by pointing to the higher yields their plans offered while concealing the fact that commission fees and the loss of employer contributions could drastically reduce their savings. Many customers later found as much as two years worth of their pension contributions eaten up by commission fees. Even when it wasn't in the individual's best interest, according to British pensions specialist Bryn Davies, many advisers still encouraged customers to take out the individual pensions because they stood to make commissions. "They were cowboys," Davies opines. There is likely more involved in this debacle than naive investors getting suckered by a smooth sales pitch. The Conservative government appears to have neglected its duty to monitor and regulate the industry properly.

This is not a charge the government can take lightly, as the estimates of the losses incurred by new personal pension holders run to billions of pounds. The Securities and Investment Board has begun ordering insurance companies, mutual societies and independent financial advisers to resolve the complaints of hundreds of thousands of citizens who were wrongfully advised to switch.

"This is the biggest financial scandal of the decade," claims trade union leader John Edmunds. "We need to know how half a million people were ripped off, were given bad advice, and were suffering as a result." More importantly, those who have lost money need to know how they can get it back. The board has now ordered the pension companies and hundreds of financial advisers to compensate victims for their losses. and if they can't do so, says Edmunds, the government should. "The government has a responsibility. After all, the government started this whole fiasco."

Stephen Beard is a European bureau chief for Public Radio International's Marketplace, where a version of this story first appeared. ◆



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The Cesar Chavez Commerative March

Sat., April 1st, Sunnyside, WA beginning at 2pm at Sunnyview Park

In 1966, Cesar Chavez and 80 farmworkers began their 300 mile pilgrimage from Delano to Sacramento. We are inviting you, your family, your organization – everybody!! to join us.

Support the farmworkers right to organize and bargain collectively.

LA LUNCHA CONTINUES

For more info: UFWWA PO Box 1056 Sunnyside, WA 98944 (509) 839-4903

Teach-In on Chiapas

Wednesday, April 5 TESC CAB 108 Noon

Speaking: Mexico native Hilaria and Political analyst Peter Bohmer.

Call the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace at 956-1771 for more info.

Jobs with Justice Action Alert

Rally to stop the Republican Ripofs! Tear Up the Contract!

We Demand: Jobs, Homes, Health Care, Justice
...Not Corporate Welfare and More Breaks for the Rich!

Newt Gingrich and the Republican Party are pushing their mean vision of the future. Through their "Contract With American" and the clone "Republican Contract With Washington State," the right wing wants to give tax breaks to the rich, lock up our youth in jail, endanger social security, cut school lunches, education and child care, savage health care funding, blame welfare mothers, undermine health and safety laws, legalize sham "company" unions and slash workplace & civil rights.

Rally & March on Linda Smith's Office Saturday, April 8 10 am
719 Sleater-Kinney Rd. SE, Lacey

Meet in front of Petsmart Store (near South Sound Mall)

After rallying at Linda Smith's office, we will carpool to demonstrations in Tacoma and Seattle. Organized by Washington State Jobs With Justice, a labor, community and religious coalition dedicated to fighting for the rights of working people, and by the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace. For more information, call 1-800-7348, x 309. In Olympia, call 705-8927

Regional Protest Against the Right-Wing Agenda

and its assault on workers, the impoverished, women, people of color, immigrants, our children and youth, our elders, the environment, gay, lesbian, and bisexual peoples, the disabled, and others marginalized by a society that places profit over human needs.

Join us as we affirm our commitment to a society based on justice, equality, and the dignity of all.

Saturday noon April 15, 1995
We will gather for a an initial Rally at Sylvester Park
(located between 7th & Legion on Capital Way)

We will then proceed through the downtown area making a call for justice to businesses whose owners have been involved in anti-union activity and have taken discriminatory action against local youth and homeless community members. We will then

March to the capital for a 1:45 P.M. Rally

Newt Gingrich, Linda Smith, and Randy Tate claim to represent the silent majority. On this day, by way of our diversity and in solidarity we will send a clear message that they do not represent us. Information: Contact the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, Lara (360) 705-9070 or Patricia (360) 943-3045.

Local Group Hosts Presentation of Bainbridge-Ometepe (Nicaragua) Sister Island Association

April 17th at 7 PM First United Methodist Church 1224 E. Legion

The Thurston-Santo Tomas (Nicaragua) Sister county Association (TSTSCA) invites the public to learn about the extensive non-governmental relationship that citizens of Bainbridge Island, WAs have developed with the people of Ometepe Island in Nicaragua.

Members of Bainbridge Island's fifth high school delegation to Ometepe will speak about their early April trip. These young people worked and lived with their young counterparts of the largely agronomy-based Nicaraguan island. They also visited the coffee farm cooperative which exports its crop to Bainbridge to roast, package and sell across the United Sates. This project not only provides a good price for the Nicaraguan growers, the profits fund significant projects in Ometepe such as installation of potable water systems in the poorest rural communities.

Look forward to hearing first-hand coverage of the current situation in Nicaragua as well as details of the Bainbridge group's projects. This event will be a great real-world hook for students and teachers of Spanish especially if followed up by connecting with the delegation due to arrive in Olympia from Santo Tomas this fall.

The TSTCA will provide light refreshments and a brief update on the upcoming October "Tomasino" delegation to Olympia from Nicaragua.

For More information please call: Susan Kibbey @ 866-9193; Richard Smith @ 754-8829; Maureen Hill @ 786-9505

Movie and Music

Wednesday April 19th @ 7pm TESC Recital Hall Free

The evening will begin with the showing of a startling documentary by Olympian film-maker Ed Glidden, "What About Bob?", about the brutal August 1992 killing of Bob Buchanan, a Thai American, by neo-nazis in Olympia. The film discusses the event and gives a general overview of the terrifying skinhead and neo-nazi movement in the Northwest.

The film is a must see for all Olympians!

Following the film, The Young Composers Collective will present a special free evening of original music created by some of the Northwest's most talented and experimental young musicians.

The Young Composers Collective is a Seattle based ensemble dedicated to the performance of new works by young composers and musicians. The players and composers in the group come from vastly different backgrounds, drawing on the influences of classical, jazz, world music, popular music, the avant-garde, and new music. To date, more than thirty new works have been created for The Young Composers Collective and presented at six sold out concerts over the past year and a half.

Procession of the Species

Friday, April 21 6-8pm

As a part of Earth Day over 300 people will fill the streets in a celebration of the earth's species proceeding from Percival Landing to Sylvester Park!

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse
Free the People

March and Rally for Justice • Free Leonard Peltier Now!

A spiritual march and rally in support of Leonard Peltier
Sat April 22 Tacoma
12-Noon March Starting Point 7th & Pacific (Fireman's Park)
1:00 Rally United States Federal Court House 1717 Pacific Ave

"19 years, plus 14 more to serve in prison" is too long for an innocent man to serve, whose only "crime" is serving his people. This is truly "cruel and unusual punishment"! When the U.S. courts admit that this person did not commit the crime for which he was charged, when the U.S. government admits to abusing the legal system by fabricating evidence, intimidating witnesses, spying on his defense team and other violations of his constitutional rights, when it is found that the U.S. government, financed, trained, and armed death squads used against traditional Native Americans, then it is time for the people to say, "Enough is enough!" All people need to stand up together and demand justice for Leonard Peltier and equal rights for all the people and the future generations!

Support the Presidential clemency campaign for Leonard Peltier!!

Leonard Peltier Support Group
PO Box 5464
Tacoma, WA 98415-0464

NW Leonard Peltier Support Network
PO Box 10262
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 956-9078

Thurston County Rainbow Coalition presents a talk on Affirmative Action

Speaker: Jerome Johnson
Wednesday, April 26 7-9pm @ SPEECH 218 W 4th

Jerome is coordinator of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. This is the first in a series of topics to be discussed over the course of the year. Donations will be accepted. Info: 357-6243

A CALL FOR A NATIONAL DAY OF MASSIVE ACTION TO DEFEAT THE CONTRACT ON AMERICA

On Saturday, May 6, let us work together to organize truly mass marches and rallies in cities coast to coast: In New York City, the financial center of the world, where the people are under attack from every level of government; in California, where the new war on immigrants and affirmative action began; in the South, the Midwest, and in New England, let's call the people out to stop the Contract.

The so-called "Contract with America" is, in reality, a contract for the corporate elite and the rich. It is a contract on the poor, on working people, on women, on people of color, on children and students, on retirees, on Social Security, on welfare, on the disabled, on the lesbian, gay and transgender community, on the Fourth Amendment, on the environment, on the arts and public broadcasting, on whatever social progress people have won over the past 60 years.

The majority of people are against what is happening. That opposition must be brought out into the open—into the streets. The challenge before us is clear. Can we mobilize the greatest number of people and do it? The answer must be yes!

GET INVOLVED NOW • MAKE A CONTRIBUTION • VOLUNTEER

Proposed by National Peoples Campaign
• Coalition in formation
39 W. 14 St., Suite 206, New York NY 10011
• 212-633-6646

●●●●●●●

Now accepting donations for the

3rd annual Thurston County Rainbow Coalition Rummage Sale

We need clothes, books, records/tapes/cd's, housewares, and more! To donate call 352-6132. Sale is scheduled for May 20th & 21st.

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace

April Meetings
2nd and 4th Tuesdays

- **Tues April 11 7pm TESC LIB 2219**
- **Tues April 25 7pm Olympia Timberland Library**

Political/Cultural Center Meeting

Tuesday, April 25 8pm
Olympia Timberland Library
Issues: Funding, Tax Status, Grants, Location

WORKS IN PROGRESS HISTORICAL CALENDAR

★★★ APRIL 1995 ★★★

"It's essential that we understand that taking care of the planet will be done as we take care of ourselves. You know that you can't really make much of a difference in things until you change yourself." Alice Walker

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat

Celebrating the Festival of the Goddess Eostre

The tradition and the name of Easter comes from the "springtime sacrificial festival for the Saxon Goddess Eostre." She was the same as the Goddess Astarte of the Middle East, the creating-preserving-and-destroying goddess who was worshipped by all Indo-European cultures. Her sacred month on the lunar calendar was called Eastremonath by the Saxons, the Moon of Eostre.

In 325 AD, Constantine I, the first Christian emperor of Rome, facilitated the decision that Easter would be observed on the 1st Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox. The Irish, though, celebrated Easter on the date of the original festival of Eostre until the Roman Calendar was forced upon them in 632 AD and Britain was able to hold out for another 50 years.

April is presumed to come from the Latin *word aperire* meaning "to open", referring to trees, flowers that are beginning "to open".

MARCH							MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		28	29	30	31			

○ full moon ● new moon

1

1902- 10,000 miners in Pennsylvania go out on strike
1920- NY legislature expels 5 duly elected members after hearing them admit that they are socialists

2

1864- Congress authorizes use of "In God We Trust" on all coins
1904- Arkansas: 14 African-Americans lynched in race riots
1913- 300 Germans die of food poisoning

3

1913- Great Britain: Emmeline Pankhurst is sentenced to three years in prison for inciting destruction of the home of the Chancellor of the Exchequer

4

1904- Dutch kill 541 more Chinese in 30-year war in Sumatra
1911- Massachusetts Legislature denies the vote to women
1932- Vitamin C is isolated

5

1914- British suffragettes bomb London church
1939- German government orders all children aged 10 to 13 to serve in the Hitler Youth Organization

6

1948- Death sentence of Rosa Ingram and sons commuted to life
1830- Joseph Smith, Vermont-born farmer, organizes Church of the Latter-Day Saints with 30 members

7

1919- 160,000 Belgium women sign petition demanding universal suffrage
1962- Cuba sentences 1,179 captive Bay of Pig invaders to 30 years in prison

8

1908- FDR reveals injunction for equal railway accommodations for African-Americans in south
1952- Truman seizes steel industry to prevent general strike

9

1939- Marian Anderson gave concert at the Lincoln Monument before 75,000 blacks and whites after the D.A.R. refused to allow her to sing in Constitution Hall

10

1919- Universal suffrage established in Belgium
1945- Buchenwald is liberated by Allies
1946- Japanese women vote for the first time

11

1962- JFK bops steel-industry for rising prices after union agrees to hold wages
1865- Abe requests suffrage for African-Amer who fought or are "very intelligent"

12

1864- Tennessee: Confederate Army captures Fort Pilliow defended primarily by African-American troops. All inhabitants are massacred, no one is spared

13

1966- MLK, Jr. says Vietnam is "rapidly degenerating into sor did military adventure"
1873- Colfax Massacre: 60 African-Americans murdered Easter morn

14

1901- N.Y. actors arrested for wearing costumes on Sunday
1906- Mob burns 2 African-Americans to death before cheering crowd of 3,000 in Springfield, Ohio

15 ○

1911- American troops cross Rio Grande to aid Mexican rebels
1919- India: British troops kill 400 Indians, demonstrating against British rule

16

1962- 3 Segregationists excommunicated by Archbishop Rummel for continuing their opposition to his order for integration of New Orleans parochial schools

17

1961- 1,500 US backed Cuban refugees land in Cuba with intentions to "liberate" the country and are killed or captured in 3 days
1964- Ford Mustang makes it debut

18

1955- Asia-African Conference passes resolution rejecting all forms of colonialism
1961- Moscow: 1000s demonstrate before US Embassy against Bay of Pigs Invasion

19

1960- Home of Z. Alexander Looby counsel for 153 students arrested in sit-in demonstrations, destroyed by bomb. 2,000 students march to Nashville City Hall

20

1947- Comedian Fred Allen is cut off the air in the midst of his weekly radio program because of a joke he made about a mythical network vice-president

21

1930- A fire in the Ohio State penitentiary kills 318 of 4300 prisoners in a prison designed for 1500
1962- Century 21 Exposition in Seattle is opened to the public

22

EARTH DAY
1915-WWI: Germany uses poison gas
1987- After 16,000 dismissals during strike, 6 black railroad workers killed in clashes w/ police

23

1949- Gov. Stevenson vetoes leash law for Illinois cats
1963- Alabama: W. Moore, a white man, is murdered on one-man "Freedom Walk" against segregation

24

1933- Chicago schoolteachers storm the Chicago banks demanding back pay amounting to 30,000,000. The teachers had not been paid in 10 months

25

1507- Geographer Waldseemuler 1st uses word "America" erroneously crediting Amerigo Vespucci
1959- Mack Parker is lynched in Poplarville, Mississippi

26

1944- Government takes over Montgomery Ward & Co after management defies ruling of National Labor Relations Board
1904- Workers Party founded in Australia

27

1919- Finnish Diet abolishes monarchy
1902- Rioting Russian peasants destroy 80 estates
1902- Eight girls killed in panic at Philadelphia factory

28

1789- Mutiny breaks out on the Bounty
1914- Wilson quells Colorado strike riots with National Guard
1977- H.E.W. bans discrimination against persons handicapped

29 ●

1894- Coxey's Army of Unemployed arrive in Washington to petition Congress. Coxey is arrested for "walking on the grass" and sentenced to 20 days

30

1900- Casey Jones' train collides with freight train
1906- Penn: 20 striking miners shot by police
1911- Portuguese constitutional court authorizes women's vote

Easter eggs weren't always Easter eggs

The egg, an ancient symbol of the renewal of life, has long been present during spring festivals. The Persians until the 1800s presented each other with colored eggs (usually red) on their solar New Year at the spring equinox. For the Greeks, it was the "mystical symbol of the Creatress, whose World Egg contained the universe in embryo. The heaven and earth were said to be made of the two halves of the eggshell, and the first deity to emerge was the bisexual Eros the Desired. Lastly, "Russians laid red Easter eggs on graves to serve as resurrection charms

Big No-No

If you eat ham on Easter Sunday, you are following an old practice of the Roman Catholics of England, who ate a "gammon of bacon" on Easter to show contempt for Jews.

Our Easter Bunny Roots

The Easter Bunny has its roots in the legend of the Moon hare. The hare, in the Old World, is associated with the moon in that it comes out only at night to feed. Born with its eyes open, the hare, like the moon, is the open-eyed watcher of the skies. The German "myth of Hatho-Astarte who laid the Golden Egg of the sun, Germans used to say the hare would lay eggs for good children on Easter

★ *"All futures are exacted out of a past."* ★

Asa Hillard